Wage bills of Air India

3240. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total wage bill of Air India for the year ending March, 1994;

(b) what is the amount overtime paid to employees during this period; and

(c) what is the amount of conveyance and breakfast|lunch and other allowances paid during this period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The total wage bill of Air India in 1993 was Rs. 305.08 crores. During this period, expenditure on overtime allowance was Rs. 14.17 crores, conveyance allowance Rs. 4.20 crores, and breakfast|lunch allowance Rs. 2.79 crores.

Upgradation of airports in Himachal Pradesh

3241. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourist traffic to Himachal Pradesh is constantly increasing;

(b) if so, whether Govt. are considering to upgrade the two airports of the State at Shimla and Bhutan;

(c) the number of airstrips at present in that State;

(d) whether Government have any plan to construct more airstrips for the facility of touristn and improve upon the present ones; and

(e) if so, main features of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There has been an increase in tourist traffic to Himachal Pradesh during 1994 though it recorded a decline during 1993.

(b) to (e) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has three airports at Kullu (Bhuntar), Gaggal (Kangra) and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. Due to difficult terain at Bhuntar, it has not been found feasible to upgrade this airfield. However, extension of runway to 4100 ft. and provision of 200 ft. overrun area is found feasible at Shimla. Airports Authority of India has no plans to construct new airstrips in Himachal Pradesh though the State Government has identified Banikhet and Rangrik—Khurik for possible new airports.

Plans to promote use of hindi language

3242. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have chalked out any plan to promote the use of Hindi language in its administraion and other wings;

(b) if so, the details therefor and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the various schemes formulated and being implemented by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Annual Plan/ Programme to promote the use of Hindi Language in the administration and other wings of all the Ministries/Departments/ Offices etc. of the Government of India including this Ministry, is formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language) which is the nodal department for the purpose. This Ministry is following and implementing the same programme. The main items of the programme include increased use of Hindi in correspondence, telegrams, telex mssages etc., arrangement of devanagari/bilingual typewriters, accelerating the pace of training of staff in Hindi| Hindi Typing/Hindi Stenography, obligatory use of both Hindi and English for speified purposes, notifying eligible offices under Rule 10(4) of the Official Languages Rules, 1976, to allow use of Hindi

for andwering the question papers in the departmental or promotion examinations, making arrangements for imparting professional in-service training in Hindi and provision of various types of incentives for promoting the use of Hindi.

Tenders for Tourism Publications

3243. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased ot state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Tourism have printed|published a large number of brochures|pamphlets| house-magazines during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the details of these publications, amount spent on each of the publications, names of printers| printing press etc;

(c) whether tenders for printing|publishing these publications were invited and if so, the names of parties who have participated in the tenders with their quotations; and

(d) what are the details of publications printed by the Department of Tourism for the State Tourism Development Corporations with the details of organisations entrusted the job of printing, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the sabha.

Increase of operational cost of Indian Airlines and Air India

3244. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of operations of Indian Airlines and Air India has been increasing during the last few years;

(b) if so, the break-up of this increase in cost since 1989-90 item-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Indian Airlines and Air India to reduce its cost of operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian Airlines has taken several steps to reduce cost of operations like reduction in capacity from unproftable routes and redeployment of surplus capacity on more profitable routes; curtailment in fuel expenditure by importing fuel with special import licence under the new liberalised economic policy of the Government; frequent preflight checks to avoid wastage on food upliftment and catering items and reduction in overtime, wherever possible.

Air India exercises strict budgetary control and monitors all items of expenditure to achieve savings. Operations Department of Air India has increased crew training on simulator. fuel conservation measures have been adopted on a continuous basis.

वायुदूत और इंडियन एयर लाइंस का विलय

3245. श्री महेश्वर सिंह : क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इंडियन एयरलाइंस और वायुदूत का पूरी तरह विलय हो गया है ;